

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 SCA-01 IO-11 DHA-02 SAB-01

SAM-01 ACDA-07 NEAE-00 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9413

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 3012

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJ: PRESS QUESTION ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON

1. PAO WAS ASKED BY REUTERS CORRESPONDENT TODAY ABOUT REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR BROWN DISCUSSED WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERS YESTERDAY "AN INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR LEBANON ON THE PATTERN OF THE MARSHALL PLAN." PAO REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR REPORT, THERE IS INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SPECIFICALLY IN CONGRESS, IN US PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF LEBANON. TO ILLUSTRATE, PAO READ TO THE CORRESPONDENT FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENNEDY YESTERDAY: "I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE PRESIDENT RESPOND FAVORABLY AND GENEROUSLY TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S FEBRUARY APPEAL OF \$50 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF PURPOSES IN LEBANON."

2. SHOULD FURTHER QUESTIONS ALONG THIS LINE ARISE PROPOSE TO ANSWER THAT IT IS NORMAL THAT US WOULD BE THINKING OF SUCH PROGRAMS TO BE CARRIED OUT AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ELECTED AND THAT US ASSUMES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ITS CONCERN ABOUT LEBANON'S PLIGHT, WILL RESPOND.

3. BEGIN COMMENT: IT IS INEVITABLE THAT WHAT AMBASSADOR BROWN

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HAS BEEN SAYING IN HIS SECOND ROUND WILL LEAK OUT. DEPARTMENT'S

SPOKESMAN SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER INNOCUOUSLY. END COMMENT.

BROWN

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NNN

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